



THIRTY YEARS OF PRACTICE 1977 - 2007

Stewart Brown and James Simpson, who founded Simpson & Brown in 1977, wish to thank our partners, associates and all those who have worked in the office over the last thirty years, our advisers, consultants, contractors and friends for the support and friendship they have given us. We are proud of

what we have achieved together. Above all, we thank our clients, without whom we could have done nothing! Finally, with our partners Andy Davey, John Sanders and Tom Addyman, we welcome Jenny Humphreys and Sue Whittle, who will join the partnership at the beginning of 2008.

GARDYNE'S LAND, DUNDEE



Gardyne's Land is a complex of five historic buildings in the High Street of Dundee. At the heart of the site is a tower house, the only surviving example of a 16th century Merchant's House in the city. It also includes tenements of c1640 and c1790, and a Billiards Hall of c1820. Gardyne's Land is unique in having survived the clearances which followed the 1871 Improvements Act and mid 20th C redevelopment.

Gardyne's Land was to have been repaired and restored by the Tayside Building Preservation Trust for use as a Youth Hostel. The project faced many difficulties and ten years were

spent in negotiation before work was able to begin. In 2005 ownership passed to Dundee City Council and work began with HOPPO Backpackers as the intended user. Fascinating layers of history have been revealed. Preserving evidence of the past has



been as important to the project as the restoration of individual rooms. To this end, rough areas of plaster, worn stone steps and crumbling timbers have been left exposed wherever practical. The top floor of the 1640 tenement building retains evidence of its former



inhabitants, including W Fergus, Watchmaker, and McLeod, Bagpipe Maker. A former model maker's room will be the public access library where all artefacts found during construction, books donated by the city, and all building information will be stored. A surviving 18th C panelled room, with its 'buffet' restored, will become a reading room.

Building Regulations and Disabled Access requirements have been demanding. New additions, such as wheelchair refuges and an atrium are of contemporary design in contrast to the existing structure.

QUEEN'S CROSS CHURCH, GLASGOW



A scheme of fabric repairs and internal alterations to Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Queen's Cross Church in Glasgow was completed in December 2006 for the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society.

Following the stone repairs carried out in 1986 by Keppie Henderson, the aim was to conserve the stone wherever possible by carrying out selective repairs. Where the original

carved stone detail was found to be delaminating, it was restored in-situ by specialist stone conservators. The conservation of the leaded glass and the upgrading of the window protection is the greatest single improvement to the fabric. The result is a much brighter church interior and the visitor is able once more to appreciate the design of the windows and the space as Mackintosh intended.

In the east gallery a demountable screen, designed by Howarth and erected in 1944, was moved from its original location in front of the columns supporting the gallery to a new position behind them, restoring the visual connection between the columns and the gallery above. The heating system was improved and additional insulation inserted. Since the hall is an important Mackintosh interior, the roof was stripped and

insulation was laid in the plane of the pitch before the roof was rebuilt on top. Roof ventilators were reinstated, following the design of those of the Glasgow School of Art, none of the church's original roof vents having survived. The rooflight was fitted with motorised blinds to control light for talks and lectures. The interior of the hall is largely unchanged but is in good order, more comfortable and fit for purpose.

DANIEL STEWART'S & MELVILLE COLLEGE, EDINBURGH



The conversion of the assembly hall, originally the courtyard, of David Rhind's 1849 Daniel Stewart's College into a performing arts centre was completed in April this year.

The new facility serves the Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools and is used for school assemblies, drama productions, chamber concerts, conferences and public events. The hall is available to be used by the local community and professional performers and many bookings have been made since its opening. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra, who performed at the opening concert on 23rd September, has praised it as a valuable addition to the capital's music venues.

Previously, the space had suffered from poor sightlines and acoustics. Excavation was carried out below the original ground floor level to provide a multi-purpose, sunken performance space, flanked by new steel galleries on three sides, to add volume and drama to the space and improve sightlines. The driving requirement of the brief was to improve the acoustic performance of the old assembly hall. To do this involved a substantial increase in volume to increase the reverberation time. The assembly hall sits at the centre of the school building and it was not possible, therefore, to extend it either laterally or upwards without breaking the existing roof, which sits inconspicuously behind the stone screen wall of the front



elevation. Excavation downwards was the only viable option.

Retractable seating below the galleries can be electronically extended to provide seating on three sides of a raised stage, or a floor level performance area. The hall has electric blinds, theatre drapes, and full theatre sound and lighting systems. Acoustic partitions, mounted on new

steel trusses, enable the auditorium space to be divided into three separate performance/teaching areas and to reflect sound back to the central performance space. All new insertions are modern in style and are clearly expressed as alterations to the original fabric. The hall accommodates 580 and can be configured to a more intimate auditorium with seating for 300.

ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS



A three-dimensional model of Brodick Castle based on laser survey imagery

2007 has been an extremely busy year for Addyman Archaeology. This side of the practice is developing rapidly and welcomes its newest recruit, Sarah Phillips, fresh from her UCL Masters degree in Public Archaeology.

Recent major building recording projects, led by Tom Addyman and Kenny Macfadyen, have included Robert Adam's great ruined mansion at Dalquharran in Ayrshire, with Michael Laird Architects. Survey work for the National Trust for Scotland's Brodick Castle on Arran has continued and a new project at Craigievar, Aberdeenshire, will start

shortly. A major project with Bain Swan Architects at Gunsgreen House, Eyemouth is ongoing. This elegant mid 18th C smugglers' house was found to be riddled with concealed voids and hide-holes for tea and other contraband, some built from Chinese tea chests. Other important discoveries include a sequence of twelve mid 18th C wall-papers, previously unknown to the V&A, and a fine pair of Georgian brecks!

Major building surveys, for example at Penicuik House, have necessitated laser-scanning as a control tool, a technique soon to be employed at



Dalquharran Castle



Gunsgreen House



Excise duty mark on mid 18th C wallpaper



Wild boar's tusk

Craigievar. Public Archaeology is a growth area. Current involvements include the Redhall Walled Garden in Edinburgh for the Scottish Association for Mental Health and a survey of the houses of Kilmorich Parish for the 'Here We Are' community project at Cairndow, Argyll.

Addyman Archaeology has been appointed heritage consultants to the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme, which has involved assessing over 20 archaeological sites on the island, with a view to establishing a conservation programme, a footpath network, interpretation and a website.

This project will be an important vehicle for the continuing integration of disciplines within Simpson & Brown: architecture, archaeology and architectural history.

More conventional excavation was undertaken in advance of development in Bristo Place for the new Malmaison Hotel. This was the site of Scotland's first asylum, the Bedlam Hospital of 1698, whose remains were uncovered. A watching brief during pipe-laying in Leith recovered a wild boar's tusk and worked flint - remarkable reminders of the long-distant prehistoric past which lies beneath the city streets.

THE LODGE HOUSE, SPOTT, EAST LoTHIAN



Work has been completed on the restoration and enlargement of the 18th C Lodge House at the main gates to Spott House, near Dunbar. The brief was to remove a poor modern extension and to replace the accommodation in a new addition at the rear. A principal consideration was that the enlargement of this typically tiny building at a strategically important point on the approach to the estate should look well. The extension is traditional in appearance with a pyramidal slated roof, visually separated



from the lodge itself by a lead roofed link. The oak framed garden room has oak shutters allowing it to be either closed or opened up at different times. The cement render was removed from the end walls of the original lodge and replaced by lime plaster with 'pointed' joint lines to simulate ashlar in the traditional way; the new walls were lime harled. Both have been finished with 'copperas' limewash, which produces a strong rusty orange colour traditional to East Lothian.

LAIDNESKEA STEADING, PERTHSHIRE



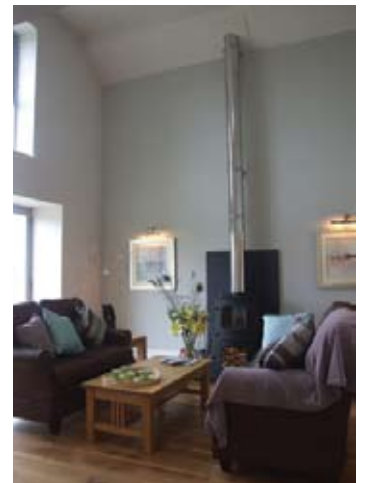
The repair, restoration and conversion of Laidneskea steading in Strathtay has recently been completed for Tighmor, a Perthshire-based company.

Laidneskea is an attractive traditional steading on a slope high above the river Tay near Aberfeldy, built in the 19th C as a model farm for the Stewarts. As with many 19th C improved farm steadings the demands of modern farming had

made Laidneskea redundant and it was slowly falling into dereliction. A fine building constructed of local stone, Laidneskea is arranged around an open-ended courtyard. There was evidence of a walled lean-to wing to the west and the remains of a circular horse-gang to the East. Laidneskea is a picturesque group, typical of Highland Perthshire, beautifully placed in its landscape setting; managing its repair, restoration

and conversion without loss of character presented considerable challenges. The proposals entailed restoring the U shaped steading, horse-gang and lean-to wing, and dividing them into four houses arranged around the central shared courtyard. The conversion was complemented by building a new house to the South East of the steading on the footprint of an earlier building, adding to the picturesqueness of the group.

Natural materials such as stone, wood, lead and slate were used throughout, with traditional detailing on the existing buildings and a more contemporary approach on the new additions. New openings were kept to a minimum with the doors and windows painted in grey and blue. Modern flat roofed extensions were added in timber, with clear articulation between the new and the old.





Mount Stuart

BENSHAM GROVE, GATESHEAD
Bensham Grove has been used as a centre for social regeneration through education and learning craft skills since the early 20th century. This project for the restoration of the late Victorian interiors will support its continued use by the community.

LANCASTER TOWN HALL
Lancaster Town Hall is one of the best and most characteristic Edwardian public buildings in Britain, catering for the full range of Edwardian society, from the Lord Mayor's Parlour, to the special cell for drunks in the basement police station. A new museum within the building is being considered.

DUNFERMLINE CARNEGIE LIBRARY
A Conservation Plan for this site, which includes the world's first Carnegie Library, has been completed for Fife Council as part of the development of a new museum and art gallery. The buildings are at the heart of the medieval town, immediately adjacent to Dunfermline Abbey.

JORDANHILL CAMPUS, GLASGOW
A conservation audit of this 40 acre site was commissioned to inform redevelopment after the transfer of Strathclyde University Education Faculty to another site. The campus includes the landmark David Stow building, historic wooded parkland, and numerous institutional buildings from the 1960s onwards.

DISCOVER BUTE
Work has begun on an unusual multi-disciplinary project in Bute, involving building recording, geophysics, landscape analysis, creating a framework for research, and developing an interpretation strategy for the rich archaeological heritage of the island.

NEWHAVEN FISHMARKET, EDINBURGH
The conversion of the 19th C former Fishmarket building on Newhaven Pier has been completed for Forth Ports Developments Ltd. A new lightweight timber and steel boardwalk provides access to two new restaurants, one of which is proving to be a very popular seafood restaurant and delicatessen.

Blackburn House



Dawyck Botanic Garden

THE VAULTS, LEITH
The building known as the Vaults, or sometimes the Black Vaults, is a largely late 18thC structure, raised over vaults and a ground floor, which date from the 17thC, or before. The site may contain the remains of a 'real tennis' court and has been associated with the wine trade since the middle ages. Repair and restoration work, which may include restoration of the Vintners' Room, with fine plasterwork of c1740, will be undertaken for the proprietors in 2008.

DAWYCK BOTANIC GARDEN, PEEBLES-SHIRE
The new visitor centre at Dawyck near Stobo is under construction for the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The new building, with its sedum roof and oak structure is expected to be completed in time for the re-opening of the garden in the spring of 2008 (www.rbge.org.uk/rbge/web/visiting/dbg.jsp).

BLAIRTUMMOCK HOUSE, GLASGOW
Blairtummock House and its outbuildings are being repaired, restored and extended for use as an Enterprise Centre for the Greater Easterhouse Property Company. Modern offices and traditional function rooms have been created. The new centre is intended to contribute to the regeneration of the Easterhouse area.

MOUNT STUART, ISLE OF BUTE
Mount Stuart, built by Rowand Anderson for the 3rd Marquess of Bute in 1877, incorporates the wings of the earlier house by Alexander McGill and is Scotland's most ambitious Victorian house. A Conservation Plan, which also covers the extensive designed landscape and associated structures, has been commissioned by the Mount Stuart Trust and will inform the use and ongoing management of the site.

HERON CORN MILL, BEETHAM, WESTMORLAND
Heron Corn Mill is of national significance as a relatively intact, working 18th century corn mill, on a site where there have been mills for over 700 years. A Conservation Plan has been completed to inform future management and ongoing use of the site, which is a popular visitor attraction.

HARTFORD HALL ESTATE, NORTHUMBERLAND
A planning application for the last phase of work at Hartford Hall, a development of 30 new houses, branded 'Low Meadow', has been lodged. The work, which is to be considered as enabling development for the restoration of the late Georgian Hartford Hall, follows on from two previous phases (www.hartfordhallestate.co.uk).

PLEASLEY COLLIERY, DERBYSHIRE
A condition assessment and historical research have been undertaken for this redundant colliery complex, including winding house, headstocks and machinery, as part of a regeneration project for the area.

Blairtummock House



The Vaults



Heron Corn Mill

BIRGHAM HAUGH, BERWICKSHIRE
Designs are being prepared for the conversion of a steading and for the erection of three new houses at Birgham, near Coldstream, for new developer Ristol. The steading is close to the site of a mediaeval chapel and a major crossing point of the Tweed, where the Treaty of Birgham was signed in 1290. Close collaboration between architects and archaeologists will ensure that the historical significance of the site is fully recognised, protected and recorded.

BLACKBURN HOUSE, WEST LOTHIAN
The restoration of Blackburn House for the Cockburn Conservation Trust, as a 'Centre for Creative Industries', is almost complete. This remarkable 1770s house, built by George Moncrieff on the proceeds of plantations in Antigua, follows a Palladian formula, which was old-fashioned for its date, and has fine plasterwork.

THOMSON'S TOWER, DUDDINGSTON
Thomson's Tower is the name given to an octagonal structure, designed by WH Playfair on the banks of Duddingston Loch. Principally associated with curling, the upper room was used as a studio by John Thomson of Duddingston. Plans are being prepared for its restoration in 2008.

LAWHEAD STEADING, EAST LINTON
The latest steading scheme for Perthshire developer, Tighmor, is approaching completion. Purchasers have moved into six of the houses and two more will shortly be on the market. A further scheme for the same developer at Papple, also in East Lothian, will follow (www.tighmor.com).

STAFF NEWS
James Simpson was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the Built Environment.

Laura Bennett and Scott Lindsay have been appointed Associates of the practice.

The partners are delighted to announce that Jenny Humphreys and Sue Whittle have accepted invitations to join the partnership in January 2008.

Jordanhill Campus

